

My dear Edie:

30 July 44

Not much doing these days since we are still in a rest area. I wrote Soph a letter to-day which tells more or less what's going on around here + since it will be so easy for you to call her + have her read it to you, it seems a bit silly to repeat it.

I received your Putman package in 8 days - which is by far the fastest I have received any packages. First class postage really makes a difference. I liked it so much that I made a pig of myself + ate it all in one day. I'm afraid that with the good food we're getting, plus the candy I'm eating, plus the ease with which I am taking life at present, that I'm going to gain back all of the twenty lbs. which I have lost. However, I'll enjoy life while I can + take my weight off in combat.

I don't believe you visited Italy on your European tour. If not you missed a truly beautiful country. These mountains are simply gorgeous + from their tops you see a never-to-be-forgotten panorama. I've gone into ecstasies over it in some of my letters to Ros.

I'm sorry that I am at present unable to make carbon copies of my letters but the company typewriter is on the fritz so I have to write everything, + I'm afraid that, with the exception of Ros + the kids, I'm a poor correspondent.

I'm spending all day long, these days, reading this + that, writing letters to Ros (I wrote a 5 pager last nite) + making visits to a neighboring town where I am having busts of Ros + the kids made in alabaster marble. They really look like they'll be something to cherish in the days to come, if the clay models are any indication. I'm hoping that I will still be in the vicinity when they are finished so that I can see the finished products before they are sent to the states. However, that is unlikely because it takes quite some time to complete. I can't tell you what a thrill I'm getting out of watching the busts gradually develop into someone whom I recognize. I was surprised to see Ros's features vividly in Elaine's bust. I was never able to see them in her face very plainly before.

Please keep writing regularly for I really appreciate your letters.

Love,

Walt